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actuates unreasonable Creatures to admonish the Reasonable World of future Events, that highly concern them in good will, and Observation confirms it, that Prodigious Fishes seldom approach our Coasts, but some considerable Occurrences follow.

If then the coming of such Ambassadors as *Neptune* never yet sent us; signifie any thing, (why *Grumbletonians*,) Why may they not signifie the happy Events we have mentioned? And which we have all the reason to wish and hope to see verified? And why should they come now just in the time of our Great Senates Sitting, and of Victorious *Russel's* being Re-promoted to the Admiralty of our Fleet, but to fore-bode, that his Triumphant Conduct shall perfect the Destruction of the over-grown *French* Sea-Power, and ntake *England* once more, and more absolutely than ever, Reign Empress of the Seas? We have almost as much reason now to hope it; nay, assuredly to expect it, as we have all along had to wish and pray for it:

Our Prognosticks then, we hope, will not appear Rash or Vain to any good Subjects, nor is there any thing likely now to make us False Prophets.

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F I N I S.

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L O N D O N,

Printed by R. S. in *Thames-street*, 1693.

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( 1 )

Strange and Wonderful News

F R O M

HOLBITCH

I N

Lincoln-Shire.

Being a True Relation of Two Monstrous FISHES, *Viz.* A *Sea-Horse*, and a *Sea-Mare*, of a vast and terrible Bulk and Bigness, each of them being Eighteen Foot long, & Twelve Foot about the Bodys, lately cast on Shore, to Admiration of all the Spectators thereabouts.

17. Nov. 1693

Licensed, November the 15. 1693.

**A**FRICA was formerly so Fam'd for the Production of Monstrous Creatures; that it became a Proverbial Question among the Old Romans, *What new Monster has Africa lately produced.* The Sea was ever accounted still much more fertile in strange Fishes, than the Land in all manner of beasts, Prodigious both for Bulk and Shape.

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Natural



Natural Historians telling us, that it has not only Fishes to Match the Shapes of all manner of those at Land, but an infinite number besides of Creatures, whose like is not to be found upon Land, and of as great a Variety of Figures, as the vilest Fancy almost can hit upon ; it being almost impossible for the Liveliest Fancied Painter to draw any Shape so Antick with his Pencil, which one time or other may not be found as 'twere Copied out by Nature in Marine Creatures : Some whereof are so Monstrous in Bigness, that they far exceed any Terrestrial Animals.

*Leviathan* we find in Scripture, far outstripes *Behemoth*, and the *Whales* now found in the Northren Seas Transcend in their might, any thing else we know. Many Sea Monsters we are told of in History so horrible, that the Amazed *Pagans* thought they were sent by the Anger of their Gods, and therefore sought to appease by sacrificing to their hungry Maws, some of their choicest Children : What kind that was of, that the fair *Andromeda* was exposed too we know not.

But *Sea horses* we often read of, a very strange sort whereof are said to Harbour in some parts of the *Egyptian River Nilus* ; we likewise often seen and heard of Strange Fishes cast upon the *Brittish Shores*, both of the *Whale* sort, and of other wonderful kinds : But no Man living that we know of, ever saw, nor do our Chronicles mention the like, of these Prodigious Swimming Horses, like Masses as were lately viz. in this Instant Month of *November* cast on Shore at *Holbush* in *Lincolnshire*.

For a Letter dated the 11th Instant, from a very credible Person living in those parts, to his Friend in *London*, Tells us, That those Monstrous Creatures are like to Horses, and therefore supposed to be *Sea Horses*, tho none in that Country ever saw the like, but that they are of such a vast bigness, as I believe we shall hardly Read of even in *Antient* Authors, each of them being about Eighteen Foot in Length, and Twelve Foot about, in Body.

There is of them a Male and a Female, and the Female or Mare is so perfectly like a Land one, that Milk has been drawn from her ; those that took them having found Meats to Feed them, having likewise brought them to that degree of Tameness as to suffer themselves to be handled.

Great

Great endeavours are used to keep them alive, for which purpose they think to Hollow out some Convenient Bafon on the Shore, large enough for them tolerably to live and divert themselves in, which the Tide may fill and feed still with new supplies of Water, every time it comes up, and which care will be taken so to fence about its Avenues, that the Monsters shall not be able to escape to their Old Dwellings.

And if this can be Effected, 'twill be a Spectacle and Entertainment worthy for a Monarch of the Sea to behold, and to be at the charge to maintain; for the *French Nebuchadnezzars Versailles*, will be able to boast nothing like it: Nor *Egypt*, nor *Africk*, nor the *Indian Regions* neither.

But now we speak of the *Monarchy* of the Sea, the most Glorious Claim of the *Brittish Crown*.

Who knows, but that as the Sea Monsters of Old, were thought to be sent by the Wrath of the God's, so these may have been sent by the Goodness of the true Sovereign of the World, and Almighty Disposer of Scepters, as Ambassadors of Good News, and to Proclaim the happiness that is shortly to attend us: There are a Male and Female of these Creatures, they are *Sea Horses*, and Horses Signifies Dominion to their Riders, what then can they be sent for, but to offer as 'twere to our Royal Pair of Monarchs *William* and *Mary*, the lost Empire of the Sea; and to Portend that as they have Restored our Laws and Liberties at Land, so they shall likewise enlarge our Power at Sea, and carry it to a higher Pitch of Glory than ever.

The Empire of the Sea has been long Fluctuating, like the poor Creatures before they came hither, between Three Powerful Nations, the *English*, *French* and *Hollanders*; as if the Heavens had been doubtful all this while who to bestow it on.

Who knows now but that the Die is cast on our side, and that by sending these mighty Fishes to our Shore, Providence would signify to us, that the Dominion of the Sea will now be fixt again in this happy Island, never to depart till Earth and Sea be no more.

Certain it is, that its not Natural for these Creatures that live in the Sea, to come to Shore, Naturalists all think there is a more than ordinary Instink that Guides them when they are so contrary to the ordinary conduct of their Natures, and Divines, even the least superstitious agree, that God by such Instinks often

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